



## **ACEH VOTES FOR PEACE**

12 December 2006

Maintaining peace in Aceh is the main agenda item that needs to be addressed by the newly elected governor and vice governor within the first 100 days. This finding is based on a Voter Attitude Survey conducted by Jurdil Aceh supported by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) during the governor election on December 11.

Respondents identified three main problems that urgently need resolving by the newly elected governor: Maintaining peace in Aceh (35.5 %), creating employment opportunities, (10.1%), and stabilizing costs for basic needs (9.3%).

Honesty (40%) and capability (18%) are the two most important factors for Aceh voters according to this survey. Besides that, faith (6.8 %), charisma (6.3%) and firmness of character (6.2 %) were also rated as important in voters choice of candidate.

Two major factors that influenced respondents' votes for a particular candidate were approval of the candidate's program (32.5%) support for the peace process (26%).

Eighty-eight-point-four percent of respondents (88.4%) believed that the aceh election was well organized, free, fair and peaceful.

In addition, 44% respondents felt that the Aceh election was important in increasing their quality of their life, 29.4% of respondents said they do not know or doubt that the election will increase their quality of their life. 26.6% of respondents said that this election will have no impact on improving their quality of their life.

Seventy-four-point-eight percent of respondents (74.8%) said that they would trust the elected governor candidate even if he was not the candidate they voted for.

The Voter Attitude Survey (VAS) was based on 3,450 respondents who were interviewed based on the Quick Count sample of 335 Polling Stations chosen randomly according to a statistical methodology which has been accepted internationally. This program received support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Margin of Error of the Quick Count is  $\pm 2\%$ , with a confidence level of 95%.

**JURDIL** is a standard of election observation which is trusted as independent, accurate and neutral. First used during the three national elections in 2004, this standard was developed by NDI together with partner organizations LP3ES, Yappika, and JAMPPI. This method of projecting election results was proven to be extremely accurate by NDI's JURDIL partners during the 2004 National Elections.



**Jurdil Aceh** is a local organization network that is non-partisan, independent, and credible. Jurdil Aceh members are Aceh Development Fund (ADF), Community for Aceh Resource Development Fund (ADF), Community for Aceh Resource Development (e-card), Forum LSM Aceh, and Katahati Institute. Each of these organizations have been involved in election monitoring activities. To support Aceh local election, Jurdil Aceh has conducted Voter Registration Audit (VRA), voter education, and candidate's debate.



**National Democratic Institute for International Affairs** (NDI) is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit organization based in Washington, DC that has been working for more than twenty years to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Working with local partners, NDI has conducted Quick Counts in more than thirty countries including in Indonesia's National Elections in 2004.

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Visit our local election website: [www.jurdil.org](http://www.jurdil.org)